

Fox, Susan

From: Rech, Sterling M [SRech@usbr.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, November 17, 2010 8:55 AM
To: Fox, Susan
Subject: Commissioner of Political Practices - Letter of Interest
Attachments: Letter of Interest.docx

Please accept the attached document as my letter of interest for the position of *Commissioner of Political Practices* located in Helena, MT. Thank you for the consideration.

REGARDS,
STERLING RECH

Sterling M. Rech
Department of the Interior
Billings, MT 59101
406.247.7669
srech@usbr.gov

Letter of Interest

For position of: Commissioner of Political Practices in Helena, MT

This letter is being submitted to express an interest in the position of Commissioner of Political Practices. It is understood that the person holding this position will be responsible, in part, for investigating and helping prosecute violations of election and campaign finance laws.

As an interested candidate, I have an ardor for learning, developing and understanding the complexities of the legislative and political processes fraught by such things as campaign finance, public contributions, election guidelines and rules of governance.

I am currently working at the Federal level for the Department of the Interior in Public Affairs. The work in this discipline involves four primary areas, those being community relations, media relations, congressional affairs and legislative affairs. This eclectic group of skills along with my training and educational background have helped enhance my understanding of the operations and management involved in upper-level government beurocracy.

Ethical improprieties are prolific and unremitting. Programs and ethical practicum's targeted at keeping ethics in the forefront of the minds of those in power are beneficial and possess great merit, however, they are but a necessary supplement to the grander picture, which involves augmenting legal and political practices which emphasize integrity and honesty, particularly in public positions.

I am currently pursuing a Graduate degree in Public Administration, and have prior education and training in communication and business administration. The Graduate program contains a considerable number of courses dedicated to constitutional law, public ethics and civil liberties. A person in the Commissioner position should possess a strong, holistic understanding of these key areas. It is also important for someone in a regulatory position to have a robust understanding of the political process and the laws and regulations equated with elections and campaigns.

My passion for public service and my dedication to maintaining offices of integrity are deep-rooted. Professional competence, workplace cooperation, clear communication and most importantly ethics are necessities in the efficient and effective operations of public office.

I hope you will accept this letter as my letter of interest for the Commissioner of Political Practices position.

Fox, Susan

From: Rech, Sterling M [SRech@usbr.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, November 17, 2010 9:11 AM
To: Fox, Susan
Subject: Commissioner of Political Practices - Application
Attachments: sterling_rech_fed_resume.docx; Letter of Interest.docx

Please accept the attached documents as my application for the position of *Commissioner of Political Practices* located in Helena, MT. Thank you for the consideration.

Attach. 1 – Resume

Attach. 2 – Letter of Interest

Regards,
Sterling Rech

Sterling Mitchell Rech

1223 Parkhill Drive Apt. 1

Billings, MT 59102

Mobile: 406-749-1101

Email: srech@usbr.gov

Country of citizenship:
Veterans' Preference:
Registered for Selective Service
Highest Grade:
Contact Current Employer:

United States of America
No

GS-7-1, 06/2009-Present
Yes

AVAILABILITY

Job Type:

Permanent
Federal Career Intern
Student Career Experience

Work Schedule:

Full Time
Part Time
Job Share

Desired Work Environment

Student

Graduate
Post-graduate
Highly Mobile
Mission-Focused
Experienced Professionals
Part-Time

DESIRED LOCATIONS

Antigua and Barbuda

Bermuda
Dominican Republic
Guatemala
Virgin Islands (British)
Costa Rica
Panama
Austria
Belgium
Bulgaria
Switzerland
Slovakia
Czech Republic
Germany
Denmark
Estonia
Spain
Finland
France
Greece
Croatia
Hungary
Ireland
Iceland
Italy
Luxembourg
Latvia
Netherlands
Norway

Poland
Portugal
Romania
Sweden
Ukraine
UK
Yugoslavia
Turkey
US
Argentina
Bolivia
Brazil
Chile
Colombia
Ecuador
Guyana
Peru
Paraguay
Suriname
Uruguay
Venezuela
Falkland Islands
Neutral Zone

WORK EXPERIENCE

**Bureau of Reclamation
Billings, MT US**

6/2009 - Present

**Grade Level: GS-07
Salary: 38,790 USD Per Year
Hours per week: 40**

Public Affairs Assistant

Since arriving at Reclamation, I have proven myself as a capable and innovative part of the Public Affairs team. I quickly mastered the use of electronic communications, writing and laying out stories for Plains Talk, the region's newsletter. With my assistance, the region has produced more stories on a more consistent basis throughout 2009. I have developed excellent skills in the area of conducting

interviews, researching stories and working with electronic images, layout and design. I have been a large help to the Regional Public Affairs Office and my efforts have directly contributed to the improvement of internal communications across the nine-state Great Plains Region. My work has promoted important programs, highlighted individual achievements and reflects great credit on both the public affairs office and the region. (Contact Supervisor: Yes, Supervisor's Name: Buck Feist, Supervisor's Phone: 406-247-7607)

EDUCATION

Montana State University Billings

Billings, Montana US

Master's Degree - 5/2012

0 Semester Hours

Major: Public Administration

Minor: Law/Policy

GPA: 4.0 out of 4.0

Relevant Coursework, Licensures and Certifications:

Current classes: Ethics and Public Policy, Public Administration Foundations, Urban Ecology.

Montana State University Billings

Billings, MT US

Bachelor's Degree - 4/2010

120 Semester Hours

Major: Public Relations - Communication

Minor: Business Administration - Marketing Option

GPA: 3.62 out of 4.0

Honors: cum laude

Relevant Coursework, Licensures and Certifications:

Relevant Course work:

Interpersonal Communication, Intercultural Communication, College Composition, Statistical Methods, Group Dynamics, Sociology, Media Writing, Microeconomics, Business Communications, Business Law, Technology for Communication, Persuasion, Public Relations Ethics, Issue in Public Relations, Organizational Communication, Communication Theory, Visual Communication, Case Studies in Public Relations, Financial Accounting, Communication Law, Market Research, Consumer Behavior, Strategic Marketing Management

Certifications:

- Lambda Pi Eta - National Communication Honor Society
 - President - Jacket Student Ambassadors
 - MSU-B Academic Honor Roll
- Hand-picked to fill MGMT 491: Business 101 Lab Leader position for four consecutive semesters.
 - Selected as Program Manager for the Take Action Initiative - an inter-agency program designed to improve employee/workplace morale by highlighting existing ways to recognize employees for outstanding achievements and emphasize noteworthy agency activity.

JOB RELATED TRAINING

FY2009 Training:

- IT Security Training
- No Fear, Discrimination Whistleblowing in the workplace
 - Ethics Training
 - Defensive Driving
 - Privacy Act
- Records Management
- Charge Card Holder Training

FY2010 Training:

- IT Security Training (due)
- Ethics Training (due)

LANGUAGES

Spanish

Spoken:	None
Written:	None
Read:	Novice

AFFILIATIONS

Take Action Initiative (T.A.I.)	Program Manager
Jacket Student Ambassadors	President
Lambda Pi Eta - Gamma Rho Chapter	Inductee

REFERENCES

Buck Feist

Bureau of Reclamation

Regional Public Affairs Specialist

Phone Number:	406-247-7607
Email Address:	bfeist@usbr.gov
Reference Type:	Professional

Dr. Susan Balter-Reitz

Montana State University - Billings

Associate Professor - Department of Communication & Theatre

Phone Number:	406-657-2178
Email Address:	sbalter-reitz@msubillings.edu
Reference Type:	Professional

Dr. Daniel Gross

Montana State University - Billings

Chair - Department of Communication & Theater

Phone Number:	406-657-2178
Email Address:	dgross@msubillings.edu
Reference Type:	Professional

Gary Amundson

Montana State University -
Billings College of Business

Instructor

Phone Number:

406-657-1610

Email Address:

gamundson@msubillings.edu

Reference Type:

Professional

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Individual Star Award - Monetary award for innovation and achievement in Public Affairs

Software proficiency:

- Adobe Photoshop CS3 (intermediate)
- Microsoft Word (Advanced)
- Microsoft Excel (intermediate)
- Microsoft PowerPoint (Advanced)
- Sony Creative (intermediate)

Leadership Activities:

- Speakers Bureau (Program Manager)
- Hometown News Release Program (Program Manager)
- Take Action Initiative (Logistics Coordinator) work directly with Public Affairs Specialist to lead a regional team of 6-8 people in accomplishing agency goals

Future Plans:

I have aspirations following my Undergraduate degree to pursue Graduate education in the fields of Law and Public Administration. The degrees I will seek are the MPA (Masters of Public Administration) or Juris Doctorate, or a concurrent degree in both fields.

I believe my undergraduate degrees and future Graduate education will help qualify me for Senior level/Executive positions within the government as I seek preparation to become the next generation of leadership in the United States government.

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Billings, MT 59101
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Fox, Susan

From: Rech, Sterling M [SRech@usbr.gov]
Sent: Monday, November 22, 2010 1:44 PM
To: Fox, Susan
Subject: RE: Questions for candidates for Commissioner of Political Practices (COPP)
Attachments: COPP - Candidate Questions.docx

Attached are responses to questions. Thank you for the consideration.

Regards,
Sterling Rech

From: Fox, Susan [mailto:sfox@mt.gov]
Sent: Saturday, November 20, 2010 11:57 AM
To: Fox, Susan
Subject: Questions for candidates for Commissioner of Political Practices (COPP)

Thank you for your letter of interest for the position of Commissioner of Political Practices. The selection committee would like you to respond to the following questions by December 3. If you have not sent in a resume, please send one also. The selection committee will meet sometime the week of December 6. I will get that information to you as soon as I can. Thanks for your interest, Susan

1. Are you familiar with restrictions Montana law imposes upon the activities of an individual holding the office of COPP?
2. What is your legal writing experience?
3. Have you ever been party to a complaint filed with the COPP?
4. What is your current or past involvement with either the campaign of a candidate or a ballot initiative?
5. Have you been affiliated with a political party or political action committee? If yes, how will this affiliation affect your ability to render impartial decisions on complaints filed against candidates, PACs, and ballot initiatives?
6. What is your opinion of the current candidate contribution limits?
7. Have you or a family member been involved in the legislative process as a lobbyist?
8. In your opinion, do further regulations or restrictions need to be placed on lobbyists' activities?

Susan Byorth Fox
Executive Director
Montana Legislative Services
(406) 444-3066
sfox@mt.gov

Date: Nov. 22, 2010

Sterling M. Rech
Department of the Interior
Billings, MT 59101
406.247.7669
srech@usbr.gov

COPP: Candidate Questions

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements set forth by the State of Montana for the position of: Commissioner of Political Practices, headquartered in Helena, MT

1. Are you familiar with restrictions Montana Law imposes upon the activities of an individual holding the office of COPP?
 - a. *I am familiar with the Montana Code Annotated 2009, 13-37-108, which sets forth the restrictions and rules regulating the office of COPP, set forth by the Montana Legislative Services.*
2. What is your legal writing experience?
 - a. *I have legal writing experience which primarily focuses on the areas of business law and communication law, which includes, but is not limited to, legal briefings, with minimal experience in torts, legal transaction documents and legal drafting.*
3. Have you ever been party to a complaint filed with the COPP?
 - a. *I have never been party to a complaint filed with the COPP in any way.*
4. What is your current or past involvement with either the campaign of a candidate or a ballot initiative?
 - a. *I have no prior involvement with a campaign of a candidate or a ballot initiative.*
5. Have you been affiliated with a political party or political action committee? If yes, how will this affiliation affect your ability to render impartial decisions on complaints filed against candidates, PAC's, and ballot initiatives?
 - a. *I have never been affiliated with a political party or political action committee and would exercise autonomous neutrality in all considerations, novations and executions for complaints filed against candidates, PAC's and ballot initiatives.*
6. What is your opinion of the current candidate contribution limits?
 - a. *In reference to guidelines established for campaign contributions under Title 13, I believe there should be equity and strict regulations in deciding proper appropriations for individual contributions, as well as contributions to political committees, PAC's, PPC's and corporations. Regulation is important to eliminate the possibility of collusion or narrow interest-driven motives, thus disadvantaging those who may not have the available resources to compete on the same stage. I believe a standard limit should be set on the amount an individual or political committee can contribute to a political party, PAC, ballot issue or a candidate for public office.*

Date: Nov. 22, 2010

7. Have you or a family member been involved in the legislative process as a lobbyist?
 - a. Neither I nor any member of my family has ever been involved in the legislative process as a lobbyist.
8. In your opinion, do further regulations or restrictions need to be placed on lobbyists' activities?
 - a. Because campaign contributions are likely a vestige of direct and indirect lobbying efforts, maintaining strict regulation is vital to the operation and ethical function of election campaigns. However, access is a necessary part of the campaign process and is integral for campaign efforts, as well as helping absorb the post-election costs, should a candidate not win the election. Auditing lobbyists' communication activity is an effective way to monitor their workings and ensure legal and ethical guidelines are being adhered to at all time. Politics steered by interest-groups should be avoided simply because lobbying influence needs to be an accurate representation of the voice of the constituency in actuating the political platform forward, not of narrow interests that typically neglect the commonwealth.